

Chairman's Report 2025/2026

Charlton and Newbottle APM – 20 April 2026

Thanks

Thanks to members of the public for attending the meeting.

Thanks to the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their work over the last 12 months and also to the West Northants Unity Authority Councillors Rebecca Breese and Rosie Herring for their support.

Parish Council elections were held on 1 May 2025 and there are now five Councillors. There are currently two vacancies, and if anyone in the community would be interested in joining our friendly team, please speak to the Clerk or one of the Councillors.

Jetty Wall

Sam Simons at WNC will progress the project if there is match funding, but the Parish Council is unable to provide this.

Finance

Grants - £650 has been donated to the PCC, £200 for The Link, £30 for a Remembrance Day wreath and £350 for the grass cutting at the Memorial Hall.

Internal Audit - Auditing Solutions was appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for 2025/2026. The Clerk will present the accounts for the last financial year later in the meeting.

Precept for 2026/2027 – This had been increased by £800 to £16,800. An increase was necessary due to the rising costs of electricity for the street lights and a general increase in all contractor costs. The Parish Council might need a larger increase in 2027/2028 if electricity costs continue to rise.

Traffic Calming and Parking

Residents have been regularly reminded about parking considerately and safely in the village, however parking issues were still a problem. Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not have any powers in respect of parking and highways and it can only issue polite reminders via Facebook and The Link.

Planning

The Parish Council has considered a number of planning applications and these are available to view on the West Northants Council web site.

Village Matters

Dog Fouling – This had continued to be an issue in the village and the PC encouraged dog owners to clear up after their pets.

Grass Cutting – Mick Dempsey has done a good job of keeping the grass verges smart and tidy and has been awarded the contract again this year.

Litter Pick – The annual litter pick was held on Friday 17 April 2025 at 6pm, starting at the Memorial Hall. All residents were invited to attend and those who turned out, were thanked for their support.

Defibrillators - The Parish Council is continuing with the maintenance of the defib at the Memorial Hall and Kevin Ridge is thanked for checking it and ensuring it is in working order and the pads are not out of date. A defib is also available at the playing field.

Play Equipment - Councillor Jordan Bolton is continuing to investigate grant funding for new play equipment in Myers Close however, options are very limited and no funding has yet to be obtained. Funding of around £30,000 is required.

VAS on Green Lane - The Parish Council recently received a request for a VAS on Green Lane. However, after costing the project, the VAS and new pole are circa £5500, plus VAT. At the current time, the Parish Council does not have the funds to cover this cost.

Allotment Land in Myers Close - Amplus who manage the eight allotment plots in Myers Close, approached the Parish Council to establish whether it would consider purchasing the allotment land. The Chairman and Clerk attend a meeting on 19 March 2026 and the Council awaits further information from the company.

Playing Field - Brackley Athletic FC has continued using the field for their matches this season and although there were a few issues with parking on match days last season, it has not been reported as an issue this season. The Parish Council and PFA are pleased to work with their Brackley Athletic coaches and officers.

RAF Croughton - Abby Jeffs, Community Relations Adviser at RAF Croughton attended the Parish Council meeting in November 2025 to introduce herself as the contact point for liaison between the Parish Council and RAF Croughton. Ms Jeffs advised that she was keen to rebuild relationships with communities in the surrounding areas and asked that her contact details be shared in the village. Please contact the Clerk if you would like these details.

Thank you to everyone for attending the meeting.

End of report.